ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An optical element comprises optical input/output means, polarization separating means, polarization plane rotating means, wavelength branching means, a condenser optical system, and reflecting means. The optical input/output means, for inputting and outputting light, has a plurality of ports. The polarization separating means separates the light into respective polarized light components (first and second light beams) having first and second directions orthogonal to each other. The polarization plane rotating means rotates a polarization direction of the received light beam to make the first and second light beams have the same polarization direction. The wavelength branching means spatially separates the light beams in terms of wavelength, and outputs thus separated wavelength light components. The condenser optical system converges the wavelength light components. The reflecting means has a mirror with a reflecting surface located at a light-converging point of the wavelength light components converged by the condenser optical system. The reflecting means causes the light reflected by the mirror to be outputted from any of the plurality of ports by way of the condenser optical system, wavelength branching means, polarization plane rotating means, and polarization separating means.